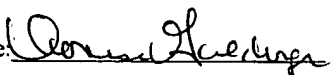


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. :
Applicant(s) : Erol Sancaktar
Title : Fiber-Reinforced
: Composite Springs
Filed : Herewith
TC/A.U. :
Examiner :
Docket No. : 089498-0354 (CIP)
Customer No. :

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Name: Denise Goldinger

Signature:  Date: 4/9/04

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY COMMUNICATION

Sir:

This correspondence addresses issues raised in an outstanding Office action for copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/871,755 ("Parent Application"). The issues raised in the outstanding Office action are believed to be relevant to the allowability of the claims in the present application, which is a continuation-in-part application ("CIP") of the Parent Application. Applicants wish to expedite prosecution of the present application by addressing these issues prior to substantive examination of the claims. Please charge all costs arising from this communication to deposit account number 50-0959, referencing our docket number 089498.0354.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this paper.